In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-8.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (New) A method for reducing interference between users of a carrier signal comprising: providing users with a high bit rate and users with a lower bit rate; first reducing the interference of the higher bit rate users by hybrid interference cancellation (HIC); and thereafter reducing the interference between the other lower bit rate users reduced by HIC, wherein a different HIC configuration is used for the higher bit rate users and lower bit rate users.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9 in which the signals selected for partial PIC are the most reliable users as herein defined.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9 in which regenerated signals are cancelled from received signals at the baseband.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9 in which the cross correlations between the cancelled and the remaining users are cancelled from matched filter outputs.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10 in which cross correlations between the cancelled and the remaining users are cancelled from matched filter outputs.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9 in which the cancellation of the signals of the high bit rate users is substantially complete before the interference between the other lower bit rate users is reduced.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11 in which the cancellation of the signals of the high bit rate users is substantially complete before the interference between the other lower bit rate users is reduced.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claims 14 or 15 in which the cancellation of the signals of the high bit rate users is carried out using a complex HIC configuration.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9 in which the total number of users is $K = H + L$, where H is the number of high bit rate users and L is the number of low bit rate users, wherein an HIC with the best BER among HIC configurations is used to cancel the signals of the high bit rate users, and HIC is then applied to cancel the interference among the low bit rate users.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17 in which the signals of the high bit rate users are cancelled using a H-H-1 configuration and then L-P-S is applied to cancel the signals among the low bit rate users.